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Celebrate Community-Supported Agriculture during National CSA Week from February 20-26. From cut flowers to fruits and vegetables or meat and dairy, find a farm near you at <u>CTGrown.org</u> to enjoy Connecticut Grown as A Way of Life through all the seasons.

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE DAY

At the William A. O'Neill State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

Recognizing Outstanding Young Farmer, Century Farm of the Year and Ag Journalism



Presented by:

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION COUNCIL

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Person

Now Accepting Exhibitor Applications and Award Nominations

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) announces that Connecticut Agriculture Day will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022, in person at a new location due to current restrictions still activated in the Capitol. Ag Day will be held at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Connecticut Agriculture Day will take place during National Agriculture Week, a time to recognize and celebrate the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. Connecticut's diverse agriculture community consists of more than 5,500 farms which contributes \$4 Billion to the state's economy and more than 20,000 jobs, while providing a safe, abundant supply of food, fiber, and flowers.

Agricultural non-profits, agricultural producer associations, agricultural cooperatives, federal and state agricultural agencies, and Connecticut municipalities are invited to register for a tabling space and encouraged to offer product samples that showcase Connecticut agriculture to state and legislative officials. Register online by March 4, 2022.

Do you know an Outstanding Young Farmer? Awarded annually at Ag Day, the Connecticut Outstanding Young Farmer Award recognizes the winner's progress in their agricultural career, their soil and water conservation practices, and their contributions to the well-being of the community, the state, and the nation. Connecticut is nationally-recognized in the Outstanding Farmers of America Program, with a leading number of national finalists. Help us keep growing an excellent tradition by nominating a worthy candidate today. must **Applications** be submitted electronically via erin.pirro@farmcrediteast.com by February 25, 2022. Download the nomination form here: http://ctaginfocouncil.org/outstanding-young-farmer-application.html

CAIC is also accepting nominations for the Ag Journalism awards. For more information on the awards or participating in Ag Day, contact Rebecca Eddy at Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov or 860-573-0323.











The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting vendor applications for the agriculture booth spaces in the Connecticut Building at The Big E, September 16-October 2, 2022, with the purpose of providing Connecticut farms, small agricultural businesses, and agricultural non-profit organizations the opportunity to market and promote their products and/or service.

This is a unique opportunity for agricultural businesses, non-profits, and other entities with an agricultural mission to showcase the diversity of Connecticut agriculture to over one million attendees who come through the Connecticut Building. Connecticut Day will take place on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, and Harvest New England Day will be held on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the exhibitor guidelines, and submit a completed application by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022. Licensed Connecticut farm wineries interested in having their wines available by the glass will be receiving a separate application to participate.

Guidelines and Application here.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Eddy at <u>Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov</u>, or 860-573-0323.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- <u>CT COVID-19 Knowledge-Base</u>: COVID-19 resource to answer your questions on self-tests, testing sites, and more.
- <u>Self-Test Page</u>: Information about self-tests.
- <u>CT COVID-19 Response</u>: Current information including data tracker, testing and vaccine sites, reopening guidance and more.

Agriculture businesses, non-profits, and other organizations should follow the sector rules that apply to them. Private business owners can implement or continue to require social distancing and other measures as deemed necessary.

Find the most current sector rules guidance at www.ct.gov/coronavirus.

The Department of Agriculture has archived information from various sources related to COVID-19, which can be found here:

https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers.

REGISTER FOR ON-FARM MOBILE VACCINATION SITE

Farms interested in hosting a mobile vaccination clinic for farm employees are encouraged to fill out the <u>DPH vans intake form</u>.

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Connecticut's maple syrup producers tap small but sweet profits, 2/14, Westchester-Fairfield Business Journals

Pandemic prompts more milk deliveries in Conn., 2/14, WTNH News 8



HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMED IN MULTIPLE STATES

Connecticut Department of Agriculture advises all poultry owners that United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the Atlantic Flyway which has affected commercial and backyard flocks in Nova Scotia, Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia.

Now is the time to review biosecurity plans to ensure the health and safety of your flock and take action to prevent further spread.

Action steps for backyard flocks include:

- Restricting access to your property and your flock
- Clean and disinfect your clothes, shoes, equipment, and hands
- Don't haul disease home if you have been near other birds or bird owners
- Don't risk disease from your neighbor (do not borrow equipment and poultry supplies from other bird owners)
- Know the warning signs
- Report sick birds

Poultry producers should:

- Keep an "all-in, all-out" philosophy of flock management
- Protect flocks from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds
- Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm
- Provide clean clothing and disinfection equipment and vehicles
- Do not loan to, or borrow equipment or vehicles from, other farms

All Connecticut poultry owners are encouraged to report signs of Avian Influenza including sudden increase in bird deaths, sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, watery or green diarrhea, lack of energy, poor appetite, drop in egg production, swelling around the eyes, neck, and head, and purple discoloration of wattles, combs, and legs to the State Veterinarian at 860-713-2505 or ctstate.vet@ct.gov.

You can also learn more by visiting the <u>Connecticut Department of Public Health's pandemic flu webpage</u> or visit the <u>USDA's Bird Flu website</u>. APHIS has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources/dtf-resources.

Avian influenza does not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 °F kills bacteria and viruses.



FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM FARMER CERTIFICATION

All fruit, vegetable, and honey producers selling at Certified Connecticut Grown Farmers' Markets must be certified with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). To be certified, producers must attend a certification meeting.

The certification allows farms to accept the FMNP checks for fresh fruits, vegetables, and honey from WIC clients and income-eligible seniors over the age of 60. Join us to get your certification, learn more about available grant funding for your farm, and accepting SNAP to expand your sales.

The final certification has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 3, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**, and will be held virtually.

Registration is now open at https://bit.ly/3DeYRLO. Please register at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

If you would like to certify but are unable to attend or have questions please contact Erin Windham directly at Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-519-6083 or Allison Hughes Erin.Windham@ct.gov or 860-500-8918.



http://scbgConnecticut specialty crop block funding opportunity

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is now accepting applications for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) for the 2022 program year. Funding priorities include strengthening and improving food systems, improving food security and food safety, and implementing controlled environment agriculture production systems to adapt to climate change. Applications are due by March 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. to **AGR.grants@ct.gov**.

Eligible applicants include commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies, and agricultural nonprofits. Projects must benefit the industry as a whole and not a single organization, business, or commercial product. As a result, individual farms or businesses are encouraged to apply and partner with other eligible applicants rather than apply themselves. This is a reimbursement grant with awards up to \$99,999.

The goal of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets. Specialty crops are defined as any fruit or vegetable, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Also included is honey, maple syrup, Christmas trees and processed foods/food products which are made of at least 50% specialty crops (excluding added water). An eligible plant must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered a specialty crop.

Block Grant Program, or contact Rebecca Eddy at <u>Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov</u> or 860-573-0323.



NEW CT FARMER ALLIANCE SURVEY

Farmers deserve an agricultural system that helps us thrive! Fill out the New CT Farmer Alliance survey to make your voice heard. The survey should only take about 10 minutes of your time. All answers will be kept confidential and no individual identities will be shared in associations with responses. Once you submit the survey, you will be entered into a raffle to win one of three \$50 visa gift cards.

https://bit.ly/NCTFAsurvey22

¡Los agricultores merecen un sistema agrícola que nos ayude a prosperar! Complete la encuesta de New CT Farmer Alliance y haz que tu voz se escuche. La encuesta solo debería tomar unos 10 minutos de su tiempo. Todas las respuestas se mantendrán confidenciales y no se compartirán identidades individuales en asociación con las respuestas. Una vez que lo envíe, participará en una rifa para ganar una de las tres tarjetas de regalo Visa de \$50.

https://bit.ly/NCTFAsurvey22



USDA, CORNELL HOST FIRST NATIONAL HEMP WEBINAR SERIES

Lectures will be given by <u>various hemp research experts</u> from academia, research laboratories, production facilities, and private industry:

- Feb. 23 Hemp Processing Systems: <u>Dr. Heather Grab</u>
- March 9 Extraction Chemistry/Facility Design: <u>Alisia Ratliff</u>
- March 23 The Endocannabinoid System: <u>Ethan Russo M.D.</u>
- April 6 Hemp Food Science: <u>Hunter Friedland</u>
- April 20 Hemp Diversity/Genetics: <u>Dr. Daniela Vergara</u>
- May 4 Economics of Hemp Production: <u>Dr. Tyler Mark</u>

The webinars will occur every other Wednesday from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. EST and include an interactive Q&A session. Registration is required.



CONNECTICUT GROWN PRODUCER SURVEY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is seeking producer feedback on the 2021 CT Grown campaign. The short survey will take approximately three minutes to complete. We value and appreciate your input as we work together to strengthen CT Grown.

If you are looking for more information on adding events, downloading the new CT Grown logo, adding your farm to the interactive map please visit www.CTGrown.org.

ACCESS CAPITAL AND USDA PROGRAMS

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County invites farms, food-based businesses, and agricultural businesses to join them for a panel discussion on accessing capital and various USDA programs to grow their business.

This panel discussion will take place on **Tuesday**, **February 22**, **at 6:30 p.m**. Presenters at this session will include:

- Farm Service Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Rural Development
- NBT Bank
- Farm Credit East
- Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce/COVID Relief grant

This is a great opportunity to learn about the options for accessing financing, conservation programs, and other resources to grow your farm and/or food-based business!

The cost to attend is \$10/farm and pre-registration is required. Veterans located in NY or NJ may attend for free. Click <u>here</u> to register.

MSU HOP PRODUCTION WEBINAR

This online, on-demand hop production course provides detailed and comprehensive presentations and resources that address all aspects of hop production from economic considerations to postharvest handling. The course was developed for beginner or prospective hop producers but could also be utilized by more experienced hop growers.

To register for this course you will need to create an account, sign in with your email/password, and complete the registration process. To watch a video tutorial, demonstrating an overview of the registration process, click on the following link: Online Course Registration Video Tutorial. Step-by-step instructions are below.

- Create your MSU Guest Account and Password: <u>Create Your Account</u>.
 (For detailed, step-by-step instructions visit the following page: <u>Account Creation Instructions</u>.)
- 2. Login to the registration system with your Community ID and Password: <u>Hop Production Course Registration</u>.
- 3. Follow the instructions to register for the course. Upon registration, you will receive a receipt and instructions for accessing the course.

Learn More and Register



SPRING CROP SALES CLOSING

The deadline to insure spring crops in the northeast for the 2022 crop year is March 15, 2022. Insurable spring crops include field and vegetable crops such as corn, soybeans, barley, oats, fresh market sweet corn, cabbage, processing beans, processing sweet corn, dry beans, green peas, fresh market beans, tomatoes, tobacco, and potatoes. Coverage availability varies by county. Visit <u>CropGrowers.com</u> to view <u>individual crop fact sheets</u> for more information.

To protect your investment in the 2022 crop, spring crop producers should contact their Crop Growers agent well in advance of the March 15 deadline. Let your agent know of any changes in your entity and they will update you of any changes to the crop insurance policy.

Learn More

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Register

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2022 FARM TRANSITION GRANT AVAILABLE

The 2022 Farm Transition Grant (FTG) is now available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants. Applications will be accepted until March 8, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

The 2022 program will again provide matching funds to Connecticut farmers and agricultural cooperatives for the diversification of existing farm operations, transitioning to value-added agricultural production and sales, and other venues in which a majority of products sold are grown in the state.

Grant guidelines and forms can be found at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

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<u>Grants Portal</u>. Questions regarding the Farm Transition Grant can be directed to Alison Grabarz at <u>Alison.Grabarz@ct.gov</u>.



NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER INVESTS IN PROJECTS

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) invests in projects that advance the regional dairy industry. A range of NE-DBIC funding opportunities totaling approximately \$3 million will be available for farmers, processors, and industry partners in 2022:

- **February** <u>Multi-Business Dairy Agritourism Grant</u>: Funding for projects that elevate multiple dairy businesses through activities that engage consumers and promote regionally produced dairy products.
- **February** <u>Grazing, Forage, & Alternative Management Cohort Technical Assistance Contract</u>: Contracts for service providers to offer technical assistance to cohorts of farmers in grazing, forage production, or alternative farm management strategies.
- April <u>Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant</u>: Funding for valueadded dairy processors to access professional services to implement marketing tactics, brand improvements, and overall strategy.
- June <u>Dairy Processor Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy processors to make key developments in operations, products, marketing, and other strategies to position their businesses for long-term success.
- *October* <u>Dairy Farm Innovation Grant</u>: Funding for dairy farms to take a holistic approach to implementing community- and climate-forward dairy production and business strategies.

For more information about the projects follow the link below.

Learn More

NRCS ANNOUNCES URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN CONNECTICUT

Thomas L. Morgart, State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, has announced the agency is rolling out its Urban Agriculture Initiative in Connecticut and will be accepting applications for FY2022 funding through March 18, 2022.

Urban agriculture pioneers are taking action in their communities growing not only fresh, healthy produce, but increasing opportunity and knowledge and improving the beauty of their neighborhoods. Through this initiative, NRCS will

weeds and pests, and high tunnels.

For more information visit the link below.

Learn More

ADD YOUR BUSINESS TO CT GROWN MAP

The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with CT NOFA, offers a variety of online listings on the <u>CT Grown Map</u> page. All agricultural businesses, farm stands, and farmers' markets are welcome to apply. There is no fee to participate and applications are accepted year round. To apply to be listed, visit the <u>CT Grown Map Google Form</u>.

Ag Market Pricing

Middlesex Livestock Auction - CT

Prices provided on February 14, 2022

New Holland Dairy Auction - New Holland, PA

CT Farmers' Market Prices New Holland, PA Hay Report

Prices provided on October 22, 2021

<u>USDA Mexico Canada Weekly</u>

Northeast Regional Eggs Update

New England Shell Eggs Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables -

Boston
Pennsylvania Weekly Cattle Auction

<u>Summary</u> <u>Wholesale Ornamental Flowers -</u>

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction -

Eighty Four, PA

Advertisements

Boston

For Sale

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

46-R. Lynn Blackmer, local Nationwide Farm Insurance Agent. AFIS certified. Nationwide Farm Master Certified. Serving CT & RI. Any type/size farm. CT Farm Bureau members may qualify for discounts. Cell: 860-377-8947. lblackmer@caluoriinsurance.com Appointments available any time.

50-R. The SIG Insurance Agencies offer a wide range of carriers, can save you up to 23% on your farm insurance and provide better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call us for all your insurance needs with locations in CT, RI, NY and NH. Contact our AG department at 866-346-3744, option 4.

54-R. Transplanters, vacuum seeders, fertilizer applicators, garlic and potato planters and harvesters. High quality Italian-made precision equipment for the vegetable, tobacco, hemp, fruit, and floral markets. Call or email us today for details. Griffin Farm Equipment, LLC. 860-508-2426, Griffinfarm@aol.com; www.griffinfarmtools.com

55-R. 250 Bales clean golden yellow rye straw, cut 6/1, large bales. 203-506-6318.

22-1. Honeybees: 5-frame Deep nucs only, available first week May. Jones Apiaries, LLC, 860-677-9391.

22-3. SnowBlower - 48" PTO. Like new only used twice \$3,095 new. Asking \$2,500 best offer. 860-604-3452

Wanted

42-R. EZTRAIL kicker bale wagons, any condition. Cash paid. Call or text George, 860-918-5442.

Job Opportunities

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut is currently searching for a new research farm manager. Minimum qualifications are a Bachelor's degree and at least six years of relevant experience, including supervisory experience. For more information and a list of qualifications, please review the job description here: https://jobs.hr.uconn.edu/cw/en-us/job/496026

UConn Extension at the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is looking to hire a Project Co-Coordinator to assist with its training program and activities for new farmers (Solid Ground Farmer Training Program). The position begins in March and is year-round. Deadline to apply is February 28, 2022. Click here for more information on the position.

CitySeed is expanding and seeking a part-time Development Associate to join the team. <u>Learn more</u>.

Interested in Advertising? Click <u>here</u> for details on rates and submission.

<u>Upcoming Events</u> (click on image below for info)







WEBINAR 1 Assessing soil health:
What is the status of my soil health?
Tuesday, February 15
Speaker: Kirsten Kurtz (Cornell Soil Health Lab)

WEBINAR 2
The value of soil health:
soil, plant, and animal interactions
Tuesday, March 22
sakers: Sam Corcoran (UMass Extension)
Joe Emenheiser (UConn Extension)



WEBINAR 3
Creating meaningful soil health change:
What can I do to make positive changes to my soil health?
Tuesday, April 19
Speakers: Kaitlin Farbotnik (NJ NRCS)
Matthew Denton (Soil Health Division, NRCS)



All webinars will be held from 10 am to 12 noon

Webinars are open to service providers and farmers and will be omprised of time for instruction in addition to interactive breakout essions. Partaking in all webinars is encouraged, but not required.

REGISTER HERE - s.uconn.edu/regsarespring22



UCONN





Come refresh your memory and/or learn about Farm Equipment & **Rural Road Safety** Thursday, February 24, 2022

A virtual meeting

7:00 — 9:00 pm Presented by Matthew Ludwig,

Risk Management Consultant for Nationwide Risk Services

Register in advance

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZcpcOmhrzkvH9Ja9x4q2HGcJX0wAMtdupxz



This event is co-hosted by





Benchmarking for Farm Business Success! Please join UConn Extension for this instructive webinar on Thursday, March 3 at 12 p.m.

Register @ s.uconn.edu/benchmarking

Chris Laughton, Director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East, will discuss business benchmarking and its potential value for your agricultural enterprise. Chris will cover a number of topics related to benchmarking, including:

- What is "benchmarking" anyway?
 Why should I use benchmarks in my farm management?
- How can they help me improve my profitability?
 Where can I find benchmark data? And How can I use it?
- What should I consider next?

This webinar is recommended for any agricultural managers who wish to take their businesses to the next level of success. Regardless of size, how long you've been in business or whether you're happy with your current profit levels or not, benchmarking can help. Tune in to find out how.

This webinar is free and open to all. For those who cannot attend live, it will be recorded and posted at https://ctfarmrisk.extension.uconn.edu follo















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